

St. Bernard Parish Government

8201 West Judge Perez Drive • Chalmette, Louisiana 70043
(504) 278-4200 • Fax (504) 278-4209

May 7, 1999

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PRESIDENT

Charles H. Ponstein

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PARISH COUNCIL

Daniel L. Dysart

Councilman
At Large

Clay A. Cossé

Councilman
At Large

Curtis B. Pitre

Councilman
District A

Nita Rusich Hutter

Councilwoman
District B

Joseph S. Di Fatta, Jr. MMK/ld

Councilman
District C

Craig P. Taffaro, Jr.

Councilman
District D

Henry J. Rodriguez, Jr.

Councilman
District E

Dockets Management
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1601
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Sir.:

The St. Bernard Parish Council convened in regular session on Tuesday, May 4, 1999 adopted Resolution #1413-05-99 opposing mandatory pasteurization of oysters and other shellfish and additional matters thereto.

Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly


Myra M. Kattengel
Clerk of Council

98P-0504

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#13

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Henry J. Rodríguez, Jr.
Councilman
District E

EXTRACT OF THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ST. BERNARD PARISH GOVERNMENT BUILDING, 8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE, CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1999 AT ELEVEN (11:00) O'CLOCK A. M.

On motion of Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Dysart, it was moved to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SBPC #1413-05-99

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING MANDATORY PASTEURIZATION OF OYSTERS AND OTHER SHELLFISH AND ADDITIONAL MATTERS RELATING THERETO

WHEREAS, Oysters and other shellfish are a treasured treat for million of Americans in every state; and

WHEREAS, the American consumer has always enjoyed a fundamental choice between products of all types; and

WHEREAS, personal responsibility and care for one's own health and well-being are commonly agreed upon tenets of American life; and

WHEREAS, important emerging technologies are now making it possible for consumers of oysters and other shellfish products to choose between traditional raw shellfish products and "treated" or pasteurized shellfish products in a competitive free market environment; and

WHEREAS, it is widely accepted by all parties involved that "treated" oysters will both fundamentally change the condition of raw shellfish, and that such treatment raises the wholesale price of oysters from the current price of approximately eight cents apiece by another six to eight cents apiece; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable to expect in a free market economy that these higher prices will then be passed along to the consumer, resulting in lower demand for oysters; and

WHEREAS, America's shellfish industry is heavily populated by small self-employed harvesters and leaseholders already operating on limited incomes; and

WHEREAS, lower consumer demand could further threaten the small shellfish industry and the livelihoods of thousands of area residents and families who are dependent on oyster harvesting and processing for their own well-being; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been asked to consider new rules which would force costly and unnecessary post harvest treatment of oysters, placing product from our area at a severe competitive disadvantage on the open market against product from other regions which will not be required to be treated in the same expensive manner; and

WHEREAS, America's oyster and shellfish industry has worked cooperatively and with great success to educate consumers with certain health conditions and risks which may be affected by certain types of shellfish; and

WHEREAS, these education efforts have been highly successful in reducing health impacts when they have been allowed to fully flourish.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Bernard Parish Council, the governing authority does hereby encourage the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to reject these costly and unnecessary rules and regulations in favor of continuing its successful work with America's shellfish industry toward greater consumer education and awareness, and toward the continuation of a competitive market economy system which has served America's consumers well since the founding of our nation; and

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Extract #13 continued
May 4, 1999

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, our Congressional delegation, the Governor and other state elected officials.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

YEAS: Hutter, Di Fatta, Dysart, Taffaro and Rodriguez.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT FOR VOTE: Pitre.

The Chairman, Mr. Cosse', cast his vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared adopted on the 4th day of May, 1999.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a motion adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Parish of St. Bernard, held at Chalmette, Louisiana, on Tuesday, May 4, 1999.

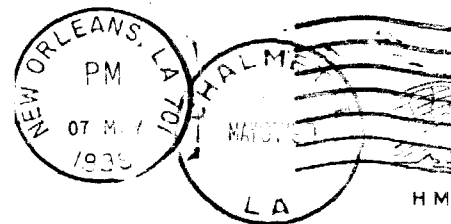
Witness my hand and the seal
of the Parish of St. Bernard on
this 4th day of May, 1999.


MYRA M. KATTENGELL
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL



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